

# **Functional Skills Level 2 English Writing Sample Paper 1**

## **Worked Example – borderline**

### Question 1

You have recently been on two different work placements.

- You were given the first placement but you found it to be quite boring and irrelevant to your future career path.
- You chose the second one yourself and found it much more interesting and beneficial because it was more relevant to your career plans.

**Your task:** write a blog about your experiences aimed at people preparing for work experience. Your blog should encourage people to seek their own work placements in an area that interests them and explain how it will benefit their career development.

**(27 marks)**

**Write around 5 to 8 paragraphs.**

## Work Placements

I have recently been on two work placements and I thought I would share my experiences with you my readers. In my opinion work placements are an important part of learning and any student should think about them.

### My first placement

My first one wasn't very good, my experience was that they weren't very helpful towards my future career. Part of the problem was that I relied on someone else finding the placement for me and what I should have done is found it myself. I have always wanted to work in the fashion industry, but my placement was in a company that sell water filters! I lasted two days and left because I knew it was not for me.

### My second placement

My second placement I made sure it was much better because I found it myself by looking on the internet. I worked in a model agency called bright life and they help me do all sorts of things that I enjoyed.

Always find your own placement then you know it will be useful and what you want to do.

Question 1	Band 4	Band 3	Band 2	Band 1	
	<b>Consistently</b>	<b>Most of the time</b>	<b>Some of the time</b>	<b>Limited</b>	
Communicates information, ideas and opinions clearly, coherently and effectively		✓			
Writes text of appropriate detail and length			✓		
Uses appropriate format and structure and paragraphing	✓				
Conveys clear meaning and establishes cohesion		✓			
Uses language and register appropriate to audience and purpose		✓			
Constructs complex sentences		✓			
Overall band	Band 3				10
Composition Marks	(12-15)	(8-11)	(4-7)	(0-3)	

Question 1	Consistently accurate at appropriate level 4 marks	Accurate most of the time 3 marks	Accurate some of the time 2 marks	Limited accuracy 1 mark	Insufficient evidence 0 marks	
Spelling			2			
Punctuation			2			
Grammar		3				
SPaG Total						7
<b>SPaG mark + composition mark</b>						17

### Commentary

There has been a good attempt to address the question brief, and there is also evidence that language has been adapted to suit the audience. Format and structure are strong, with the title, subheadings and paragraphing all contributing to the coherence and the clear and effective communication of information, ideas and opinions. Detail was lacking in some areas and the length is relatively short.

Punctuation is correct only some of the time, although sentence demarcation is generally secure. There is evidence of the correct use of apostrophes for contractions and one

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instance of the correct comma to separate clauses. Spelling errors are numerous and include relatively simple words. Grammar is generally sound although there are errors of verb-tense agreement and inconsistent tense selection.

## Question 2

It is well known that celebrities use the media to help their careers, but they don't seem to like it when the media covers their private lives.

- Is it right how the media treats celebrities?
- How do celebrities benefit from the media and how does the media benefit from celebrities?
- Should anything be off-limits or can the media cover everything about celebrities and their private lives?

**Your task:** Write an article for a student magazine exploring the extent to which it is fair that the private lives of celebrities are covered in the media.

**(27 marks)**

**Suggested word count 250 – 300 words.**

### Media and famous people

We all like reading news about pop stars and seeing pictures of our favorite actors and celebs and I know that when it suits them celebs love being talked about and photographed so is there a time when it is not right that they can be photographed and talked about?

If the media didn't cover celebs so much they would not be as famous, so they definitely need them. But what if they invade their space too much or turn against them. Then it can get nasty and people get hurt and upset. Some media can destroy a person's career and make the public turn against them. Is that right. I'm not sure. But if that person has done something wrong and they should resign from their job then it is ok if the media cover their story because they shouldn't have done the wrong thing in the first place. But if they have done nothing wrong and the media just keeps covering them even when they are at home doing their own thing then it is wrong and the media should not do it.

Also, the media need the famous people too because they help them sell all their newspapers and magazines so they should know better and treat them with respect not invade their privacy all the time.

I hope you have enjoyed my article

Kind regards

Sian T

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Question 2	Band 4	Band 3	Band 2	Band 1	
	Consistently	Most of the time	Some of the time	Limited	
Communicates information, ideas and opinions clearly, coherently and effectively		✓			
Writes text of appropriate detail and length		✓			
Uses appropriate format and structure and paragraphing		✓			
Conveys clear meaning and establishes cohesion			✓		
Uses language and register appropriate to audience and purpose			✓		
Constructs complex sentences			✓		
Overall band	Band 3				
Composition Marks	(12-15)	(8-11)	(4-7)	(0-3)	9

Question 2	Consistently accurate at appropriate level 4 marks	Accurate most of the time 3 marks	Accurate some of the time 2 marks	Limited accuracy 1 mark	Insufficient evidence 0 marks	
Spelling			2			
Punctuation			2			
Grammar		3				
SPaG Total						7
SPaG mark + composition mark						16

Overall mark for question 1	17
Overall mark for question 2	16
<b>FINAL MARK</b>	<b>33</b>

### Commentary

Most detail has been covered, but there could have been more expansion upon the benefits received by the media, as suggested in the question brief. The format and structure are generally good until the end, where the candidate becomes slightly confused and appears to turn it into a letter/email through the use of *Kind regards*. The language is relatively simple, and the lack of punctuation enhances this perception. There is ambiguity in some of the sentences, which impacts upon the effectiveness of the writing as a whole.

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There are several spelling errors, some on relatively simple words, and the vocabulary choice is not particularly ambitious. Punctuation errors are frequent, especially in omitting commas to separate clauses and when possessive apostrophes should have been used. Grammar is generally correct although there are errors.